

# Jane learns to make sounds she's never heard

By MARTHA MAHAN

Watching 10-year-old Jane Nance merrily skiing down a slope, or ice skating, or swimming, you'd never dream she is a cripple. Her disability doesn't show, but it's severe nonetheless. You'd have to talk with her even to suspect it.

Jane has been profoundly deaf since birth. She started school before she was two years old in order to learn to talk, to make the sounds she never has, and never will hear.

**SHE STILL** has trouble with pitch and articulation, but her speech is understandable. And she's a chatterbox.

She presently attends Farmington's Woodcreek Elementary School where five classrooms have been outfitted as an Oakland County center for teaching the hearing impaired.

"Don't write about Jane as though she were pitiful," said her mother, Mrs. William Nance of Birmingham. "She's anything but pitiful."

"She's upbeat, extremely outgoing, very strong willed and determined. She's not afraid to talk to anyone. She's extremely well coordinated and does everything any hearing child can do."

**"IN SHORT,** she's a perfectly normal little girl who doesn't hear."

Jane, a tall, slender, dark-eyed girl who wears her medium brown hair in twin ponytails, supplements her vocal classes at Woodcreek with sessions at a private speech therapy clinic recently opened in Farmington.

The clinic is operated by two public school speech pathologists, Tom Call of the Farmington system and Paul Pesick of the Birmingham District.

It functions on weekdays during after-school hours, on Saturdays and in summer vacation when the two men are freed from their regular jobs.

They have been friends since college days when they attended Eastern Michigan University together.

**BOTH HAVE** clinical experience, have worked closely with

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Doctors and have served as consultants for rehabilitation centers and schools.

Call worked for the Metropolitan Society for Crippled Children and Adults and in Pontiac public schools before shifting to Farmington.

Pesick was at Wyandotte General Hospital for a time and with the Detroit public schools before transferring to Birmingham. Pesick is this year's president of the Oakland County Speech and Hearing Assn. Call was president last year.

**BOTH HOLD** certificates of clinical competence awarded by the American Speech and Hearing Assn. Requirements are a master's degree in speech pathology, between 400 and 500 hours of clinical experience and successful completion of a national examination in speech pathology.

Pesick also is a member of the public schools committee of the Michigan Speech and Hearing Assn.

Clients at their private clinic on Twelve Mile near Middlebelt include pre-schoolers, school children and adults. They are referred, for the most part, by pediatricians and other physicians, orthodontists and teachers. But not always.

The wife of a South American physician training in a nearby hospital and having difficulty communicating with patients called to make an appointment for him. She said the doctor himself wouldn't admit his problem.

**TEACHER** referrals generally are of children who need supplemental help beyond that which the schools can provide.

Some foreign students also find speech therapy helpful, Call and Pesick said.

Other cases involve patients with cerebral palsy, strokes or cleft palates.

"An ability to comprehend, to express himself or both are associated with paralysis," the men said. "Perhaps the patient can't hear all that is said or hears sounds reversed or can't distinguish what he hears, like between 'shin' and 'chin.'"

**CEREBRAL** palsy sufferers are hampered by motor involvement of tongue, lips, teeth. Other problems with which the speech pathologists deal are stuttering, hesitation and repetition in speech, lisping and articulation, problems from nodules on vocal cords and what they call "tongue thrusting."

The latter is a physical rather than a speech problem but can result in protruding teeth and the need for expensive orthodontic attention.

It is caused by persons pushing their tongues against their teeth rather than the palate in talking. Call and Pesick advise parents who feel their child is not talking properly to wait until age three to have him evaluated and then by a qualified ear, nose and throat specialist.

**THEY ALSO** advise parents to ignore stuttering and to show the same patience and courtesy to a child stammerer as they would to a stranger or adult with the same problem.

"Only a stutterer knows what it feels like to stutter or repeat," they said, "and the embarrassment of someone leaping in to supply the word he is struggling to say."

Vocal cord nodules can appear on those who use their voices a great deal, such as ministers, teachers, public speakers. They also show up on such voice-abusers as teenage cheerleaders and the very young who run about screaming at play.

Sometimes the nodules account for falsetto voices in men.

However, Call and Pesick al-



Paul Pesick, speech pathologist, works with Jane Nance of Birmingham in the speech therapy clinic he and Tom Call have opened in Farmington.

ways insist on a medical examination by an ear, nose and throat specialist before undertaking speech therapy. There is always a chance the nodule is throat cancer.

**THE MEN** work closely with patients' physician, teacher or family, as the case indicates.

"Family acceptance is especially important with stroke victims," they said.

Both men are especially proud of young Jane Nance whom Pesick describes as "academically very smart and terrific with language skills."

"She can't produce some of the hard sounds like 'k' and 'g' but that's very usual for the deaf," he said.

Achieving pitch also is difficult

for the hard of hearing and "we are trying to refine her articulation to get the best sounds we can produce," her tutors said.

**THE CAUSE** of Jane's deafness is a mystery, her mother said. She was neither ill nor took medication during her pregnancy and bore three other children before Jane.

"The doctors decided it must be a familial thing," Mrs. Nance said although neither parent knows of a similar case in either's family background.

But Mrs. Nance is less interested in seeking the cause of Jane's problem than in helping the girl become a whole and happy child.

The Nances first consulted their pediatrician when they suspected Jane's deafness during her infancy. He agreed there was a problem and recommended an audiolo-

gist. From there they went to the Wayne University Speech and Hearing Clinic and thence to the Oakland County program.

**"I'M VERY** grateful we live in Oakland County," Mrs. Nance said. "At Woodcreek school she is in an integrated program, within a regular elementary school and in a completely oral situation."

"I brought her to the private clinic really because she needs constant speech therapy and will continue to need help and fortification for the rest of her life."

"I waited until I felt she was ready for this. Otherwise I'd just be wasting her time, mine and the tutor's. I felt she was ready."

That readiness, strong will, determination and academic ability are assets which her tutors felt will balance off Jane's disability.

## 'See and Tea' ushers in spring at Farmington Center

"See and Tea" at the Farmington Community Center on Wednesday, March 13, will usher in new spring classes due to begin the first week in April. Teachers and past students will answer questions and exhibit samples of their work between 1:30-4 p.m.

The tea is complimentary to everyone who drops in at the center during those hours, when registration will begin, to continue those hours, when registration will begin, to continue from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. daily until classes open. Saturday hours are from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Those who are planning to take advantage of the center's tour to Banff and Lake Louise during Easter vacation, are alerted to have reservations and deposits to reach the center by March 13. A family-style ski trip is planned with seven days and six nights of deluxe accommodations.

**ONE NEW COURSE** at the center this spring will prepare would-be private pilots to pass the required examination. It is called "Private Pilot Ground School" and

covers airplane systems, airport communication, meteorology, air regulations and all other pertinent subjects. The teachers will be Woody Coche and Gene Fincham, both certified flight instructors with many years of experience in aviation.

Parent Effectiveness Training is another newcomer. It is a self-help program for parents in search of answers to perplexing problems.

Some new insights are given by Anita Kahn on how to listen, how to talk so children will listen, and preventing and changing unacceptable behavior.

Before her work with PET, Mrs. Kahn taught in the Oakland University Continuum Center.

**DR. JAMES D. FREER** will offer a psychological study, "The Adjusting Self," an inquiry into adjusting to one self and others in a meaningful manner. Six lectures are designed to help each student arrive at an adequate self-accepting concept.

Dr. Freer is a member of several professional organizations in the

field of psychology and is frequently interviewed for radio and television.

With the advent of spring comes "Fly Tying and Trout Fishing," time. Dale Crawford, who devotes much time to pursuing trout throughout the U.S., will teach tying and angling techniques. He will include a session on rod construction and information on steelhead and salmon as well.

Golf instruction will be offered this spring in cooperation with Top-of-the-Tree range. Charlie Robinson will be the instructor for both adults and young people.

**COMING WORKSHOPS** will demonstrate the art of bonsai, how to build a garden under glass, unusual things to do with a tole flower, Swastrow flowers, Japanese arrangements, and tinse painting. Individually designed basket purses will be the end result of a session with the Whicrafters.

Most other favorite classes will continue to be available during the spring term.

All inquiries are to be directed to the center office, 477-8404.



DOROTHY EBI AND DOLORES REDINGTON will demonstrate the special brand of rug hooking taught at the Farmington Community Center when guests drop in on March 13 for "Tea and See."